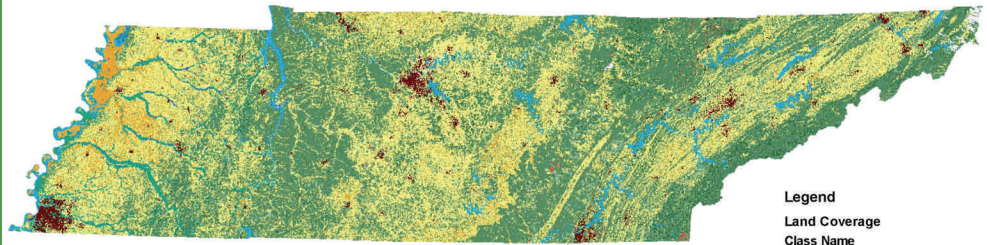




Land Cover of Tennessee (1990)



Legend

Land Coverage

Class Name

- Forested Wetland
- Non-vegetated
- Nonforested Wetland
- Open Water
- Pasture/Grassland
- Row Crop
- Undefined
- Upland Coniferous Forest
- Upland Deciduous Forest
- Upland Mixed Forest
- Urban/Developed



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOREST HABITAT FUND (FHF)

An EQIP fund to enhance habitat for non-game wildlife and plant species of greatest conservation need through improved management of private forestland



Contact:

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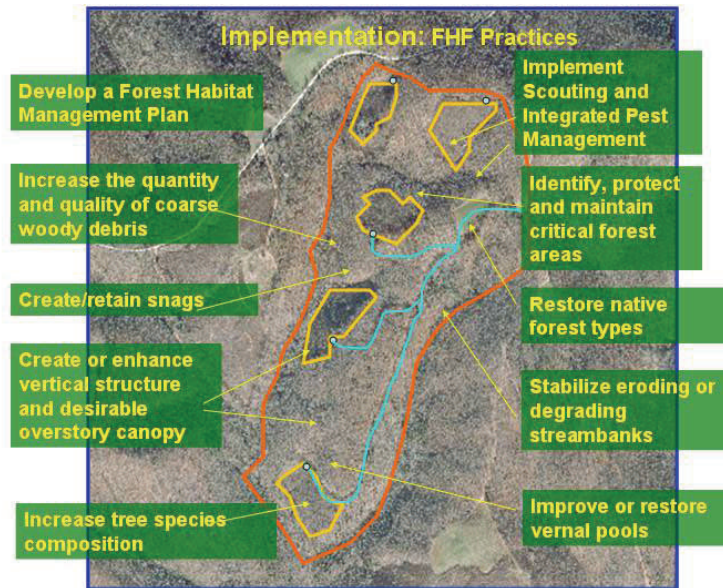
Email: John.Woodcock@state.tn.us

- Are you a non-industrial private landowner with at least 10 acres?
- Are you interested in helping improve habitat for nongame wildlife and birds?

FHF was created as a Tennessee component of the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to assist forest landowners interested in managing their land to enhance habitat for non-game wildlife and plant species of greatest conservation need (GCN) as identified by the Tennessee Wildlife Action Plan and Tennessee Natural Heritage Databases. The plan selected 645 species of GCN and mapped their occurrences on the land. The habitats at these occurrences were identified and many of them are found in forest habitats. In fact:

- 70% of GCN species depend on forests for some of their habitat needs
- Most of these species depend on forests that have:
 - Older growth characteristics
 - Occur in unbroken tracts of moderate size
 - Stands of various ages
 - Stand structure, density and canopy closure that vary depending on species needs

FHF can offer a wide range of silvicultural options to interested landowners that are compatible with the habitat requirements of species of greatest conservation need while maintaining the landowner's opportunities for current and future sustainable timber production



The diagram above illustrates some of the forest practices that might be a part of a forest stewardship plan. Practices such as these can be used to preserve and improve habitat for animals and plants of greatest conservation need.

Tennessee Forest Facts

- 54% forested (14.4 million acres)
- 81% owned by non-industrial private forest landowners (11.1 million acres)
- 89% hardwood forest types (12.4 million acres)
- Tennessee forests are most threatened by parcelization, fragmentation, and resulting land use conversion to non-forest use
- There are approximately 500,000 forest landowners in Tennessee (Non-Industrial Private Forest (NIPF) Landowners)
- NIPF landowners (11.1 million acres) provide clean water, wildlife/plant habitat, timber, carbon sequestration, recreation, aesthetic and related tourism opportunities.



before thinning

thinning young stands to create structure



after thinning

Who Can Apply?

- Landowners with 10 or more acres
- Landowners whose primary forest management objective is maintaining or enhancing the value of their forest habitat to non-game wildlife and plant species of greatest conservation need, particularly interior forest-dependent species
- Landowners who are interested in considering the habitat needs of wildlife and plant species of greatest conservation need as they are planning forest management activities
- Landowners whose forest habitat faces threats from pests and invasive species

How Do I Apply?

- Step 1: Landowners work with local Natural Resources Conservation Service and Tennessee Division of Forestry staff to assess:
- Landowner objectives
 - Forest size and location
 - Presence/absence of significant landscape features
 - Current forest condition
 - Management history
- Step 2: Landowner completes an EQIP application and ranking tool interview
- Step 3: Forest habitat management plan is developed and approved with signatures of TWRA wildlife biologist and TDF forester as benefiting non-game wildlife and plant species of greatest conservation need and being silviculturally sound
- Step 4: Landowner applies for cost-sharing to implement approved forest management practices